

English 1: Unit 03

Reading Appetizer

Purpose: Expose students to the vast variety of reading materials in the world in order to encourage independent reading.

Description: At the beginning of each class period that focuses on the writing component, use the Reading Appetizer time to guide students as they process the self-improvement books they are reading for IR. Limit the time to 5-7 minutes.

Option 1: Teacher reads aloud a brief excerpt from a self-improvement book not being read by any of the students. In a designated section of the Reader's Notebook, students write a personal response to the excerpt. Students may think about the following to get started: What did the excerpt mean to me? How might I apply it to my own life? What does the excerpt remind me of?

Option 2: Students select a specific piece of advice or self-improvement theory from the book they are reading and think of someone (movie character, television character, book character, actor or actress, historical figure, singer, etc.) the specific advice or self-improvement theory could help. In the designated section of the Reader's Notebook, students write a note to the person thoroughly explaining the advice and why it is applicable to the person's specific situation.

Option 3: If students in the same class are reading the same self-improvement books for IR, pair students who are reading the same book. Partners should take turns sharing an annotated excerpt, explaining why they selected the particular excerpt, the connection made to it, and the conclusions drawn from it.